

*The* **H** *Magazine for the Christian Home*  
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**Hearthstone**



- **Making the Most of Vacation** - *Glenn H. Asquith*
- **What Church Shall We Go To?** - *Jean Hamilton Burgess*

JULY 1951



# The Magazine for the Christian Home Hearthstone

E. LEE NEAL, *Editor*

NANCY RAY ALLEN, *Assistant Editor*

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## Fireside Chat . . .

Summer's here, and *Hearthstone*, as you notice, is slimmer down to seasonal size with 30 pages. We've stocked them, as always, with what we believe you will find of interest and guidance. For example, you will find on page 2 a discussion of marriage between partners who are of different religious faiths. The author, Jean Hamilton Burgess, is the former director of Christian education for the First Christian Church of Columbia, Missouri, and is a writer for the *Bethany Bible Teacher and Student*.

\* \* \*

Vacations come seldom enough so when yours rolls around it's smart to be prepared to absorb from it every last bit of enjoyment, and yet return refreshed and enthused about starting daily tasks again. You'll find valuable "Making the Most of Vacation," by Glenn H. Asquith.

\* \* \*

Do you have a family council? It's amazing how many difficulties can be smoothed away by instituting a family council; how responsible Sis and Junior become; how more closely than ever your family can become united. Learn about "Planning in the Family Council," on page 20.

\* \* \*

We all hear so much about the damaging accelerated tempo of our lives today; we all try, if vainly, to slow down our pace. Remember that our teen-agers (in spite of all that seemingly boundless energy) are just as susceptible as we are to trying to do too many things in too short a time. Let's read "Too Much to Do!" and take stock of ourselves and our schedules.



## *The worth of man . .*

O Lord, our Lord,  
How excellent is thy name in  
all the earth,  
Who hast set thy glory upon the  
heavens!  
Out of the mouth of babes and  
sucklings hast thou estab-  
lished strength,  
Because of thine adversaries,  
That thou mightest still the en-  
emy and the avenger.  
When I consider thy heavens,  
the work of thy fingers,  
The moon and the stars, which  
thou hast ordained;  
What is man, that thou art  
mindful of him?  
And the son of man, that thou  
visitest him?  
For thou hast made him but lit-  
tle lower than God,  
And crownest him with glory  
and honor.  
Thou makest him to have do-  
minion over the works of  
thy hands;  
Thou hast put all things under  
his feet:  
All sheep and oxen,  
Yea, and the beasts of the field,  
The birds of the heavens, and  
the fish of the sea,  
Whatsoever passeth through  
the paths of the seas.  
O Lord, our Lord,  
How excellent is thy name in  
all the earth!

—Psalm 8

—Religious News Service

*A Word*

*from*

# The Word





# what church shall we

IT'S SUNDAY noon. Family dinner. And Mother's well-basted chicken becomes dust in her mouth as Jane drops the bomb. "Bill and I have set the date." And . . . "I know what you're thinking. He's not a member of our church, but his religion is strictly his business, my religion is mine. We're broad-minded enough not to let religious views stand in the way of our marriage when we love each other so much." That makes her narrow-minded, Mother is reflecting, but to a family rooted in one church for generations (and for good reasons too) the possibility that Jane, youth officer, conference graduate, primary teacher, choir member, will be happy rearing a family that is not church-centered seems bleak.

## *Religion Is Personal*

"But religion is an individual affair. I have to keep mine and Bill his," says Jane. And in one way she's right. Real religion must be personal. It cannot be borrowed from a lover, forced by disappointed in-laws or zealous fiancées, accepted as a postscript to a wedding license, or endured as a rite for keeping peace in a family either present or prospective. The religion that sustains us through loneliness (and there are such moments even after marriage), illness, disappointment, possible widowhood, and eventual death must be our own religion. The good woman who had her husband put his hand in hers every night while she prayed for them both was keeping him a spiritual infant. Only her death forced him to grow into a faith of his own. Couples worshipping shoulder to shoulder in the same sanctuary must meet God in their individual ways. Yes, Jane, religion is a personal affair. And men and women are individuals even after marriage. If we could stop here we might say with conviction that individual members of a family should worship in various churches of their choice.

## *Religion Is Social*

But we can't stop here. Religion is social too. Even the most personal beliefs and practices affect other family members. Our aims in working, in marrying, in having children, our standards of right and wrong, the values we pin on people and things are all practical ingredients of our working religion. And they are basic issues upon which it is wise for couples to agree before marriage. They ease later

*Many young couples who are*

*Planning marriage do not have  
common religious commitments.*

*If they face their problem  
frankly and fairly, out of*

*their personal solution can  
come spiritual unity, deeper*

*conviction, greater happiness  
for both of them*

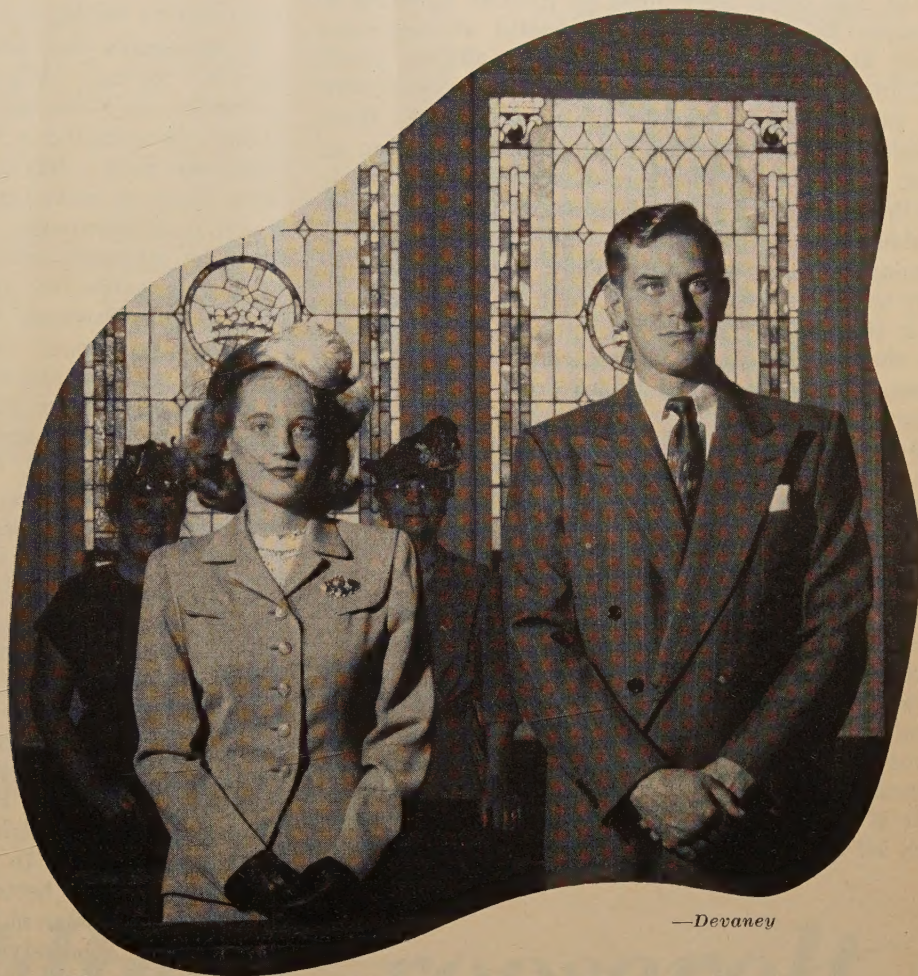
decisions: Shall we buy a television set or help a DP student? Should we work harder for obedience or initiative in Junior? How much release from and help in household duties should a wife expect? Agreement on the application of principles is often difficult. Those involved may find themselves resorting to considering each other stubborn, misled, or unreasonable.

You say that couples do not have to attend the same church to agree on such issues. In some cases this is true. Yet churches do represent different viewpoints and young people are often more deeply committed emotionally to their church than they realize or admit. An extreme example is that of the Catholic boy who marries the Protestant girl. They have many likes and dislikes in common. They have a common respect for people and a common desire to make their home a Christian influence in their community. They seem, before marriage, to agree on most things except to which church they will go on Sunday morning. They decide to go each to his own and to clap the sign "no man's land" on religious discussions that might prove upsetting. A year after marriage they are just discovering what a spreading territory one's religious convictions cover; methods



to?

By JEAN HAMILTON BURGESS



—Devaney

of child training; the place of parents in the family structure; obedience to authority in home; religion and state; attitudes toward birth; death; books; movies; censorship; free discussion and testing of one's beliefs. As more and more items float into "no-man's land" the boundaries threaten a good deal of what should be just everyday normal living. Couples of Catholic-Protestant background are urged to read the poignant "Our Catholic-Protestant Marriage" as told to Alberta Williams and published in the January, 1950, *American Mercury* as well as material offered by their minister and priest before announcing their engagement. We would expect these tensions to be greater among Catholic-Protestant marriages but they exist in varying degrees among Protestant-Protestant marriages such as those between young people, one having a liberal, the other a con-

servative, background and therefore little common religious commitment.

#### *Shared Religion Enriches the Family*

Common beliefs not only mesh many wheels in marriage that might otherwise grind, but shared experiences in religious expression enrich family living. The family that dresses on Sunday morning in anticipation of driving together to church school, sitting together in worship, eating in fellowship with friends; young people who can count on their parents' encouragement and help in youth activities, who can see father and mother in positions of Christian leadership and can practice it themselves, this family is exposing itself to tremendous forces of spiritual vitality.



And there are very practical reasons for a family's attending one church. Ask any mother the mechanical difficulties of prying a family from bed, breakfasting, scrubbing, dressing, and delivering it to the church on Sunday morning in time for the first hymn. Add the duties of depositing various members at various churches to fit various time schedules with a workable pick-up plan and you arrive at the same decision as do many inter-church families; that the family had better stay home on Sunday morning to preserve its health. Not a houseful of magicians could keep up with parents' class affairs, youth activities, family dinners and fellowship programs for two churches. Family affairs enjoyed by three generations in a church-united family lack meaning to at least half the members of a two-church family for they never feel at home. Most couples faced with double allegiance limit their church experiences to Sunday morning worship. They never know what they miss. "I love the smell, sounds, and vibrations of a church," says a young girl. "I like to hear the chatter of women quilting, smell coffee from the stewardship dinner, feel booms from the practicing organist."

And the family that is committed to the same church receives constant stimulation for thought, discussion, and family projects in practical religion.

#### *Facing the Problem*

The problem, then, is not a simple one. Religion must be personal. Yet shared religious experiences enrich family life and eliminate problems almost invariably faced by families not united in church loyalty. How can a couple maintain individual religious beliefs and yet create family religious experiences?

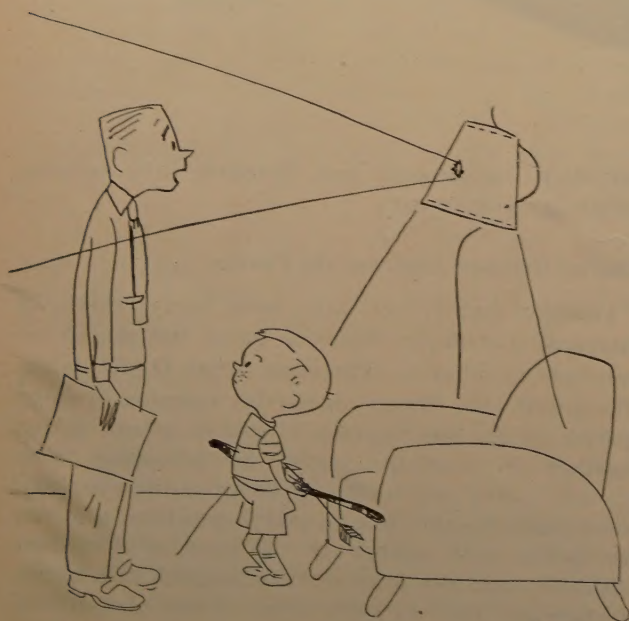
It is the tricky sort of problem that differs with each set of circumstances. Couples form myriads of

religious combinations: Jewish-Protestant; Catholic-Protestant; Protestant-Protestant. They live near all kinds of churches; a few churches; one church; no church of their choice. They come to marriage strongly flavored with their religious background, mildly flavored; disinterested.

We feel that the best solution lies in finding one church to which both may feel a spiritual kinship and offer the following suggestions to couples of inter-church faiths.

1. Recognize your problem *before* marriage. And face it! Saying, "When two people love each other as we do they can solve these problems as they go along" is admitting a truth and avoiding an issue. Love can help. But if the problem can be solved later it can be solved now. Consider how you differ in religious viewpoint. How do your parents differ and what pressure are they apt to put on you? What does this matter to you? Do you have carefully thought-out answers for them that demand their respect even though they disagree? How do your differing religious slants color your attitudes toward: jobs, possessions, sex, marriage, children, friends, recreation, and other issues previously mentioned? On which do you agree? Disagree? On which can you agree to disagree? Do you honor the other's religion or consider it childish or dogmatic or radical or worldly?

2. Examine, critically, ways in which the problem has been "solved" by other couples. "The wife should decide," says one good husband. "Religion is a woman's specialty." We hesitate criticizing an attitude which gives women a priority they find in few enough fields. But the woman who carries the spiritual load of the entire family must feel herself a religious widow. "Boys can always go to church with their fathers, girls with their mothers." What do Methodists have to say to women that Congregationalists can say better to men? "Men are harder to interest. Women should go where the men want." This may be good advice to middle-aged couples who failed to base their marriage on spiritual unity but to new couples who have a chance to do better it smacks of dictatorship or religious "dadism." "If one of the couples has been active, the other not, the active one should decide." Does this keep the inactive one inert? "Protestant churches are all alike, anyway, it doesn't really matter." They are not alike. An honest Christian will prefer that his deepest convictions coincide with those of the church with which he is working when that is at all possible. "All this is narrow denominationalism. It's time we forgot our differences." Then there are churches where you can register your belief. Look for a community church, for instance. "We like the minister at the corner church. The teachers are good. There is a scout troupe." Ministers change. You may improve the teaching. A boy doesn't have to belong to a church to participate in scout activities. Choice on these bases alone may keep you running from one end of town to the other as the minister disappoints



Serrano

"What do you mean, the lamp sprang a leak?"

(Continued on page 26.)





*Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
still remains one of the most  
controversial figures ever to  
emerge upon the public scene*

# *franklin d. roosevelt*

## world leader

by THOMAS CURTIS CLARK

IN BYGONE days a president of the United States could consider his responsibility as largely limited to the realm over which he was called to preside. The national executives of our country during the nineteenth century only occasionally were called upon to deal intimately with other nations. President Washington's advice as to "entangling alliances" was well observed by nineteenth century leaders of America. But with the turn of the century, and the more ambitious programs of the energetic Theodore



Roosevelt, there came a change. His predecessor, William McKinley, it is true, had been brought into contact with other nations through the Spanish-American War.

But it was during the administration of Woodrow Wilson that a revolution came in the relations of the United States with other nations. World war spells expanded responsibilities, and the Department of State during such periods becomes an important phase of national activity. There are entangling alliances a-plenty when the whole world goes to war.

With the developing twentieth century came larger problems for the United States, and Franklin D. Roosevelt very early found his administration clogged with perplexing, almost devastating, responsibilities. That he should make mistakes was certain, and at the beginning of his first administration he assured the country that he would make mistakes. It was a matter of trial and error, he said. But he assured his people that he would do his best.

One of the biographers of Franklin D. Roosevelt suggests that injustice is often done by the American people to their Presidents. No sooner is a man named national leader than he is at once caught up in a glamorous cloud of popular esteem. It is inevitable that people get the impression that the man who is President is a figure of heroic mold—a greater thinker, a wiser statesman, a more resourceful leader than other public men. And, having made him a hero, they naturally expect him to perform like one. But, says this biographer, after all, this man who is called to be President is only a human being, with the shortcomings and weaknesses that human beings always have.

President Roosevelt's personality enabled him to fit the pattern of the "great hero." Unlike President Coolidge, he had an impressive presence, a confident bearing, an attitude of masterly wisdom and know-it-all; also, he happened to have a voice that carried over the country with surpassing effectiveness. When the President, at that perilous time when the country seemed going to wrack, stood before the microphone and assured the waiting millions that all would be well, the clouds seemed to clear. The banks were closing and millions of dollars were being trapped.

In America, the presidency can call leaders from log houses and from stately mansions. This is democracy. Lincoln, Jackson, Andrew Johnson came from lowly homes. Washington, the Adamses and a few others came from homes of wealth. Franklin D. Roosevelt was a scion of the rich. His father was a wealthy businessman with a large estate, and Franklin had the very best, materially and culturally. He was given private tutors until he was fourteen. He was taken to Europe every year, and during the summer he attended a select school. When he entered school at Groton, in Connecticut, says his biographer, he was "a good deal of a spoiled darling." After Groton came Harvard, the very name of which meant wealth and culture. He became known as a "good fellow" and joined half a dozen aristocratic clubs.

**D**URING HIS years at Harvard his father died, and his mother took over. And she saw that young Franklin had every attention that sons should have. And he was doing very well. Leaving Harvard in 1904 he attended Columbia Law School, and soon married Eleanor Roosevelt, a niece of President Theodore Roosevelt. And now he was ready to meet life.

The President's biographers seem to disagree as to his scholarly ability. Some say he always had a fondness for books and was an excellent student. Some say he was not a studious person, but rather a lover of sports and a good time. He had varied hobbies, particularly an interest in boats of all sorts. He made a collection of pictures of various ships, especially did he like war vessels. Thus was he preparing for his later responsibility as Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Finishing his studies at Columbia Law School, young Roosevelt, at twenty-six, entered a law firm in Wall Street. But according to his biographers, he did little as a lawyer. His eye was on politics, and at twenty-eight he was elected to New York's State Senate. There he took a stand against the corruption of New York's Tammany. He ran for re-election in 1912, and was re-elected.

When Woodrow Wilson came forward as a national Democratic hero, Franklin Roosevelt decided to follow him. He was enthusiastic about the new leader's policies. Wilson was a political reformer, an enemy of political machines, a champion of individual freedom, and an apostle of social welfare. After Wilson's election, thought thirty-one-year-old Roosevelt, why should he not go to Washington? And he went. And in a short time he found himself in the second position in the Navy Department. And he began to think of a bigger navy for the country. When the first World War broke, he championed the entry of the country into the war.

But other honors were awaiting the ambitious young man. At the Democratic convention of 1920, which nominated James M. Cox of Ohio for President, the name of Franklin Roosevelt was mentioned as his running mate. He was nominated. He accepted the nomination, resigned from his position in the Navy office—and was defeated. And now he was out of a job. He soon found a position in a casualty company in New York, also forming a law partnership with an able lawyer.

Shortly after taking his new position, this handsome, vigorous, athletic young man was stricken with infantile paralysis. Then followed three years of slow improvement; and he found Warm Springs, Georgia, the institution he later made famous. This ordeal showed the real Roosevelt spirit, and the victory was won. Though permanently crippled, he was again in good health. He was ready for more politics. And he was elected governor of New York.



When the Democratic party met in Chicago in June, 1932, to nominate a candidate for President, the country was in the midst of the great depression. The banks were failing, and unemployment was increasing with frightening rapidity. Whom should the Democrats nominate? Why not Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had an excellent name, and who had done well in some important posts? He was named, and when the governor of New York entered the great hall in Chicago, after a fast flying trip from the East, there was great enthusiasm. He entered the battle with all he had, and soon after the presidency was his.

Concerning the three administrations of Franklin D. Roosevelt, many things have been said. Much of what has been said has been acutely critical. His New Deal has been blasted. His "deals" at Yalta and at other high conferences have been held up as failures. But one thing must be held in mind: no great leader has had such an avalanche of tragic problems to face as had Franklin D. Roosevelt. Most reasonable Americans must concede that Roosevelt did "his best," as he promised he would do.

This much can be said of the work of President Roosevelt. He has been true to his early dreams—of doing something for the common man. Labor's position in the country today is not what it was a generation ago, when men supported large families on fifty-cents-an-hour wages. If the President had done nothing except establish the Minimum Wage Act and the Social Security Act, which mean a more secure life for millions, he would have been a great President. But he has done much more.

Whatever President Roosevelt has not been, whatever mistakes he has made, he has been a real leader in the most tortuous period of the world's history. Although he has often erred, as he thought he might, his heart has been right. What later history will do with his name cannot be predicted, but he has already been accounted as one of the twenty outstanding world leaders of this century.

# *A Paraphrase for Parents*

(Based on the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians)

By CHARLOTTE WHEATON DUDLEY

Though I speak about children in the lingo of Gesell, Ilg, and Spock, but do not truly love them, I am as futile as a radio commercial and as boring as soap opera.

And though I have the gift of intuition and understand all moods and all developmental stages, and though I have great faith that each mountain of a problem will be just a passing phase—but do not truly love my children—I am a failure.

And though I give every material advantage to the poor darlings, and though I give my patience till I am "burned up," but don't really love them, I get no thanks for my efforts.

Love suffers uncertainty about results without frustration; love doesn't allow me to envy my children's freedom, nor to be boastful of their accomplishments, nor to be inconsistent, nor to treat them as possessions, nor to be easily annoyed, nor to suspect them of evil motives.

Truly loving parents don't enjoy berating their children for their mistakes, but love to encourage and compliment them for every sign of growth. Such parents put up with mistakes, believe the best of their children, have great dreams for their future, and are the last ones to give up hope of their becoming mature, creative personalities.

Love never fails. But what the lecturer said will fade from your mind, and what the expert wrote in a book won't solve your problem. Even what you think you've learned will fail to come to mind when your children are quarreling in front of you.

For we cannot catalog the ways of growth for the human soul. But when our own attitudes are loving, we find the creative solutions ourselves and can do without the half-answers of experts.

When I was a child I spoke as a child, I understood and thought at a child's level. Now that I am an adult I have forgotten how to be companionable with my own children.

For now I tend to see each child through the smokescreen of my own ego, but I can learn to see each one clearly, face to face, in uniquely beautiful relationships. Now I know only a fraction of my child's personality, but with true love I shall know him fully, somewhat as I must be known and understood by God.

And now there are three great capacities of the human spirit: faith in the future, hope in the significance of the past, and love—creative companionship in the present—but the greatest of these is love.



*Have a tailor-made vacation!*

*fit yourself with a holiday  
measured for your particular  
family's requirements using  
these few basic rules*

## MAKING THE MOST

**R**ESTING UP from vacation" has become an accepted theme among cartoonists and humorists. There is the person who is so badly sunburned that he fears the slightest tap on the back; there is the exhausted camper, and the disgruntled family returned from two weeks of "roughing it." Surely, the vacationer who needs to "rest up" from his vacation has not made the most of his holiday; indeed, the holiday has come off the victor.

If you never have been among those who have come back from a vacation tired out, disillusioned, or the worse for wear, turn the page; this article is not for you. However, if you realize that you have failed, now and again, to make the most of your too-few vacations you may find something helpful here, for the author speaks as one having failed many times, but as one to whom has come some glimmering of light.

The first step in planning a vacation, of course, is to size up the situation and make a choice which will best meet the needs of all members of the family. In a humorous story, the hero needed a new dog for hunting, and the author sent him away to a place where he might be "measured for a dog." A family needs to be "measured" for a vacation, too. And that measuring should be three-dimensional.

Of the three dimensions, let us call "change" the first. Physicians and others skilled in the laws of health have been telling us for years that the chief advantage of a vacation is the change from the regular routine of life. For instance, it is no change for a mother who has been cooking three meals a day for fifty weeks to go to a place where many guests will follow, and where her time will be spent, largely, in the kitchen. For a rural family who live outdoors so much of the year, a vacation may not

be the best when spent in another country setting. The same holds true for a city family; for that family to visit another city where the same noise and bustling and confusion exists would be unwise. A vacation combined with summer-school course might be ideal for a family of adults who have been too busy to study anything seriously during the year, but it would be a sad vacation for the family where there are children used to the schoolroom day in and day out. Measure yourself and your family, then, by the first dimension—will this vacation provide a complete and welcome change from the customary manner of living?

The second dimension centers around the budget—how much will the vacation cost, and how much have we to spend on it? If it requires more money than the family budget can afford, the father, and perhaps other members of the family, will cancel out the benefits of the holiday through worry and sacrifice. Unless the vacation can be enjoyed equally by all it is not likely to be fully enjoyed by any. There will be times when the family must decide between one week of the kind of "away-from-home" vacation the members want, and two weeks of a second-choice vacation. Often, a shorter vacation of the ideal kind will be the best buy even though the remainder of the time is spent at home.

And the third dimension will be that of "general interest." In a recent novel of family life the father is pictured as being very precise, and one of his strictest rules was that the table conversation at mealtime be limited to topics of "general interest" in order that all members of the family might share in the talk. The same principle is even more important in the selection of a vacation. Referring to the humorists, again, there is a yearly struggle in some



By GLENN H. ASQUITH

# VACATION



—Godsey from Monkmeyer.

families as summer approaches: mother and daughter wish to spend the vacation at a resort where they can wear their new clothes and see the new fashions displayed by others, while father and son insist on going to a place where they need never dress up once during the holiday. Until the right sort of

compromise can be reached a truly happy vacation cannot be selected.

Once the family is carefully measured for a vacation they are ready to make definite plans. They will have decided, in all likelihood, on one of the following types and they will have the joy of anticipating it for many weeks before the time arrives.



Among the countless children who suffer  
because of the war—children sick, hungry, cold,  
maimed and sometimes orphaned—the United  
Nations International Children's Emergency  
Relief Fund has, so far, distributed dried skim  
milk to make over five billion cups of milk for  
small hungry mouths.

ONE POSSIBILITY is a combination of study and rest. During the summer months there are music festivals in various parts of the country where cabins or other accommodations are provided, and where one may study music part of the day, and loaf or enjoy group recreation the rest of the time. The same is true of summer courses in many colleges. There are groups for would-be writers, and those interested in amateur theatricals. In addition to the health value in such vacations the family will bring back many other permanent values, which will add to their happiness at home for years to come. The choicest of these study-rest vacations, of course, are to be found in the summer camps and assemblies of church groups where the spirit is refreshed as well as the body and mind. Here the study groups and planned recreation are of such a varied nature that every member of the family, from the youngest to the oldest, is sure to find something of fascinating interest.

Another type of vacation is the "vacation spot" kind. The family may decide on a place at the seashore, in the mountains, the lakes region or near some center of special interest and make the vacation revolve around that area's facilities. Many families find a site which proves so satisfactory that they return year after year, and perhaps buy a cottage of their own. For such a family the vacation problem is pretty well solved. One caution should be exercised, however: a permanent site should not be purchased until the family has tried the location often enough to be convinced that they want it year after year. Yet another kind of vacation is the travel trip. For those who have a large budget an extensive journey by boat, train or air can be planned with the aid of a local travel bureau. For most of us, the travel will be by means of the old, family car. If a family is adventurous and can adjust itself to varied situations, such a vacation offers much in the way of pleasure and education, and it bears fruit in understanding and tolerance. Not many miles from the family home can be found folk quite different

from those in the ordinary yearly orbit of church, school, work, and home.

Deserving, perhaps, of special mention, is the "roughing it" vacation. There are regularly maintained trails across the mountains of our country with comfortable hostels for spending the nights. By consultation with the Forestry Service a trip may be planned to fit the time available. Many people complete a trail trip over a period of years, starting each summer where they had left off the year before. And there are many spots available for camping-out if hiking seems too rugged. Both the camp and the trail require good physical condition on the part of those participating. The values in health to the average family are great, and the memories of meeting God in the outdoors cannot be overestimated.

As a last resort, a "visiting" vacation may be chosen. It should be a last resort because an extended visit even to the most loving of relatives is seldom as vacation to the hosts, and the next year is likely to find the situation reversed which means the family will have a limited vacation for that season. And yet there are times when the finest thing, the greatest change, and the best all-around holiday is a vacation spent on Grandfather's farm, in Aunt Lucy's shore cottage, or on Uncle Henry's boat. Just make sure that you are really wanted, and take stock to see whether or not you are in a family where the personal friction is at a minimum. Surely blood ties are strong, and a sense of family solidarity and family standards will be a real profit.

And last, there is that back-yard vacation. Our family had one last year. Our youngest child was subject to car sickness, and our budget was a distinct drawback, so we settled down in the back yard! There were many compensations. An unused fish pond was cleaned out and restocked with goldfish, and two frogs with good lungs came to enjoy the spot. The care of the pond occupied Nancy and Jean for many hours, and Glenn, Jr., came close but never once really fell in! Nancy decided to take swimming lessons at the Y.W.C.A. and they filled some pleasant hours for her. Jean decided to continue with her piano lessons and trudged off for a weekly lesson with much practice to follow. It was decided that Mother needed a change, so we sent her off on a visiting vacation to New Jersey with Jean as traveling companion. In the meantime Nancy, Glenn, Jr., and Daddy kept house; we even made some cookies that were edible! Our vacation fun included the use of an old but serviceable croquet set, some impromptu soft-ball, short trips to near-by parks and places of interest, odd jobs of painting, family games in the cool of the evening, and a great deal of loafing. The best of it was that we did not need to rest from our holiday. In fact, we were all ready to go when fall came with the usual activities.

So there you are. Go ahead and measure yourself for a vacation. Then make up your minds to get the most out of the vacation you choose, and you will find wonderful things ahead of you.



"Davie!" she cried and was down on her knees beside him. He gazed into her face in shocked unbelief, then just sat there shaking, long lashes blinking slowly as he struggled for self-control

ILLUSTRATION BY  
HAROLD MINTON



# The Lord's Business

FLORA HARRIS often lingered at the breakfast table for what she called her "count-my-blessings time," after her husband Ken had gone to work. She would just sit there and look around the pleasant kitchen and be thankful all over again that it was hers. Not because it was one of those stream-

lined affairs with a snack bar, correctly spaced cupboards, and the like, not at all. Flora's kitchen was purely old-fashioned, even showing the wear and tear of former indifferent tenants in spite of her carefully applied paint; yet she loved it.

How good the Lord had been!

*A Story by*

HELEN J. REICHENBACH



That's how Flora felt about it. No nonsense about *luck* and that sort of thing. No, it was the Lord who had blessed her. Why, who would doubt it, she'd ask you, if you had stood for simply years and years on an assembly line, scrutinizing endless reams of paper passing before you, sticking labels in their proper places—and *the Lord giving you the strength to endure it?* Furthermore, there had been the aged crotchety parents Flora had taken care of until the Lord himself had taken them to him six years ago, and for that, too, strength had been given. Since then—well, at this point tears often came to Flora's warm brown eyes, and why not? Wasn't this where Ken came in?

Ken Harris, her husband now, but once just the big shy man you saw working at the *second* chair in the dim rear of Johnson's barbershop. The first chair, the one that stood like a throne in the big, bright, front window was Mr. Johnson's. He owned the place, and when you came right down to it, he owned Ken, too. Flora had seen that with that woman's heart of hers, just walking past the place on her way to the lunchroom next door. It was what had first made her notice Ken, that, and the kind look about him, and maybe something else as well—his *lack of faith*, as she called it to herself. For well she knew that resigned look about him. It was the look of a man who would say defeated things about himself, like, "No woman could like *me*," and, "Where would a man *my* age get another job?" She was to learn later that a totally unlovely childhood had done this to him, but right then she only wondered.

Liking Ken *from a distance*, Flora remembered, had grown on her, and, after the fashion of women, she "hoped" just a little, but after a year of their, "Good morning," and, "Good evening," and, "It looks like it might rain today," she knew nothing more would come of it. Oh, yes, there were *looks*, but dear me, where did they get you, especially when you were both well past forty? Something just had to be done—and something was. . . .

One day Flora walked bravely into the barbershop past Mr. Johnson's inquisitive eyes, took Ken aside with breezy friendliness in spite of her wildly tumbling heart, and sold him two tickets to the church supper that was coming up in a few days.

"Why, sure—sure," he had stammered with that shy little smile that had first rung a bell in

**Truth is too simple for us; we  
do not like those who unmask  
our illusions.**

**Emerson**

her heart, "I'd be glad to. But . . ." he glanced at the tickets going round and round in big kind-looking hands, "I haven't anyone to go with," he added honestly, "so I'll just give them to some friends," and that's the end of that, his eyes added.

But he didn't know his Flora—not right then, anyway. She just sent the tinkliest sort of laugh through the grim old place and said, "Well, how about taking me? I'm all alone, too."

Yes, her heart almost stopped, and after she was outside she heard Mr. Johnson's raucous laugh and his, "So you're going to let an old maid get you, eh, Ken?" But she couldn't be bothered with such nonsense, not Flora with her faith in the good Lord and that he was with her in this.

After that supper, Ken had taken over. Flora recalled that with pride. In no time they were out here to look at this very place. It had indeed been a surprise to learn that they both had often noticed it with the same piercing longing.

Abused for years, and then deserted, the little place seemed to yearn right back at them. It consisted of ten weed-covered acres on the edge of town. A small brook hurried across one end as fast as debris—tin cans and bottles and even an old iron bedstead—let it. And the little house nestling within a white birch grove—oh, Flora just had to turn from Ken lest he see her tears and, manlike, misunderstand.

*A home of her own at last!* How her fingers itched to wash those dim windows until they blinked and winked—to fit them with frilly curtains! Oh, dear Lord, thank you—thank you . . . !

Ken, beside her, was dreaming too, raising the sagging porch, putting leaning fence posts back on their feet, trimming the shaggy lilac bush beside the door, the way he had many a mass of whiskers. But his old pessimism was busy too. "This won't last," he thought with a quick glance at the radiant-faced woman beside him; "it's too good to be true."

**BUT THEIR LOVE**, that almost frighteningly beautiful love of the middle-aged, had its way. Soon enough, there they were, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Harris, busy as two happy bees around their new home, so that it wasn't long before the passer-by who had first scoffed, now slowed down to stare and say, "Why, it doesn't look like the same place!"

It was true. Even the brook had been freed and was now babbling happily along. The land was plowed, some of it made into a garden, some into a wide sweep of lawn, and the rest just lay there, waiting. The little house, with its fresh paint and new blinds, had a chest-thrown-out look. It was now a home.

But that garden! Dusk often caught Ken and Flora working there, and the way devotion is always repaid, the garden overflowed with plenty for all, even friends and neighbors. But the big surprise the last year or so was the demand for flowers and vegetables. Why, Flora had filled a little baking powder can on the pantry shelf again and again with dimes and quarters that eventually swelled the little nest egg they had in the bank.

Yes, indeed, there were blessings galore, and that morning as Flora went about her bit of housework, she was properly grateful to the good Lord with whom she walked in such simple faith. Later in the day, as she moved slowly from bush to bush, filling a big basket with long, slim green beans for a new customer, she felt again that little



sense of guilt at the thought of how much she and Ken had—too much for just two. It just didn't seem quite right to Flora, "sharer" that she was. She straightened and looked around. How some forsaken little tyke (and how appallingly many there were these hard days) would love all this! Her mother heart yearned for just such a one and right then and there she made one of her sudden decisions—she would talk to Ken about taking in some child. It would not be easy.

And so he was that evening as they sat on the bench beside the kitchen door where many a plan had been made. He shook his head.

"We're too told for that sort of thing," he said gently. "Chances are we wouldn't live long enough to raise a child."

Flora was not discouraged. "Why, Ken!" she laughed. "Even young parents can't be sure of that."

"That's true," he agreed, leaning over to free a crumpled pansy face in the flower bed beside him, "but their chances are better. Anyway, babies are for young folks—"

"But I don't mean babies," interrupted Flora. "I mean little left-over children, maybe right around here, needing help. Seems like they ought to be for us older folks, wouldn't you think?"

"Well, maybe," he agreed slowly, "but . . ." He thought for a time, then added, "Queer, but I heard something today that touches on that. I shaved old Judge Cooper and he was telling me about the Sharp case—remember that?"

Of course Flora remembered Davie Sharp. In a small city gossip has many swift legs. It had reached her long ago about the little fellow, how he had already gone through three sets of parents in his short seven years and that he was now again at the mercy of—well, *'most anybody*.

"Oh, Ken!" cried Flora, shining eyed. "Let's take him!"

If she lived to be ninety, Flora told later, she'd never forget the night Ken brought Davie home with him after work. She had just

had time for a furtive glance at the little fellow standing there looking mutely back at her, before Ken whispered with his kiss of greeting, "Give him lots of loving. He needs it—I *know*."

Well, this *would* be easy, she thought—but *it wasn't*. You see, loving Davie was a little like trying to read a small book that had its covers clutched tightly about itself, as if determined that the little story inside should not be read. Oh, yes, he was a nice

### What we do not understand we do not possess.

Goethe

enough child, even meek, but he never quite gave all of himself, and never did a look of waiting for something leave his young-old eyes. This puzzled Flora. What could Davie be waiting for?

They had asked Davie that first night if he would like to go for a ride and he had shrugged carefully, his eyes wary. Creeping into the back seat, he had sat there like a solemn mouse. It moved Ken's heart.

"Hey!" he cried. "What are you doing back there? Get yourself up here with Dad and Mom!"

The next day was Sunday. When Ken and Flora, too, made ready for Sunday school, Davie looked surprised.

"Didn't anyone ever go to Sunday school with you before, dear?" asked Flora as she adjusted his tie—his very first, he told her shyly.

"I never been to Sunday school," was the simple answer.

Well, she and Ken had done everything they could think of to make Davie happy. Ken put up a swing in the big maple in the back yard and Flora fixed a real boy's room upstairs. Even a dog—Davie had seemed to hunger for one—was soon bouncing all over the place. Yet Davie was waiting—waiting. . . .

One thing he seemed to enjoy—the swing. He'd sit out there for hours and just gaze dreamily about, one foot reaching lazily for

the ground every little while, keeping the swing in gentle motion.

He likes it out there, thought Flora happily, watching from the window. She went out. "Would you like to help me a little, Davie?" she asked.

Davie smiled a little oftener these days. Now his smile and his "Sure," were really quite friendly and not a bit guarded.

"Good!" she said. "You pick the strawberries and I'll fix us a shortcake for supper. How's that?" She gave him a quick little hug.

"Okay," he said, but her heart sank at the little closed look that again came over his face—as though he were steeling himself against her tenderness. Poor little lamb, thought Flora.

It wasn't until a month later that Flora found out what it was that Davie was waiting for. She had been busy canning most of that day so that she hadn't had time to give him as much attention as she usually gave him, a fact he seemed to mind a little until children in the neighborhood called him out to play.

The garden had rushed her lately; there was much to do. Flora hurriedly put her cans away in the cellar. She didn't pay a great deal of attention when she heard Davie coming in overhead. She could hear him go from room to room—as though he were searching for her. Little worrier, she thought, with a smile.

Suddenly he called out to her, but busy with a load of cans and exasperated over a tippy shelf, she didn't answer at once. She'd go up in a moment—Davie could wait that long.

"Mom!" How odd his voice was, filled with growing mistrust and concern.

Oh, dear. "Yes, Davie," she was about to call back, but just then it came, his cry and awful sobbing. "Mom—oh, Mom!"

How she got upstairs so quickly, she couldn't have told later, and the sight of Davie there at the kitchen table, his head on his folded arms, his little body shaking with sobs, well, that almost finished Flora.

(Continued on page 30.)



*what!*



—Aqua Viva from Don Knight

**M**OTHER, WILL you love me just as much when the baby comes?"

The child whose chief fear is losing his mother's love is a tragic and pitiable sight. There are two sides to the problem of preparing a child for the advent of a new life in the family: the social, with its deep underlying emotional aspects, and the biological, full of questions that must be met with truth, unashamedly.

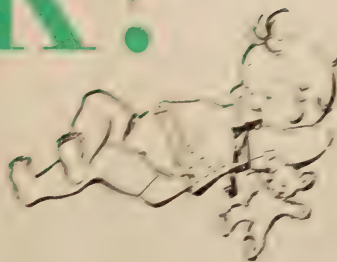
You, as parents of a growing, inquisitive, lovable boy or girl, should act much the same as before you knew there was to be another life entrusted to you. Of course there is talk about the coming baby, extra buying, rearrangement of the household, and some outside activities to curtail. All this tends to arouse fears, emotions, questions in your child's mind, and you, mother and dad, must be ready for them.

Much emphasis has been placed recently on making the child feel secure. When a new baby is expected, the first child may feel left out of the parents' consideration. Then comes the fear that is liable to result in undesirable acts of retreat, or even violence, if it is not allayed in the beginning. Repeated reassurances on the part of the mother, particularly, and added attentiveness to the child will aid in retaining the precarious balance of emotions so easily upset in the young mind.

One mother gave a special day every two weeks to the entertainment of her four-year-old son, during the early months of her pregnancy, so he would know she was thinking of his happiness. Another young mother suggested that two children were happier, always having a companion to play with, that the increased family would enjoy pleasanter times, and



# no STORK?



*The first-born child who finds  
joy and security in his relation-  
ship with a little brother or  
sister is usually the child who  
has been carefully and lovingly  
prepared for the coming of the*

new baby

By LOIS S. SMITH

that the baby would be such fun to watch growing and to help him to walk, to talk, to play games. She made the older child feel important by saying that the little one would copy his ways, and watch him, while he, too, could skip and run as big brother did.

Suggestions of added enjoyment with a new member of the family, happiness in teaching the little one, and promises of the good times they can all have together, will help Nancy or Bobby to see that it is a gain instead of a loss. Explain that mother has love enough for three children, and that children are not tossed aside like old toys.

Let the child help with the plans. Assisting with the shopping, or rearranging the nursery, aiding in folding and putting away the tiny garments will build a feeling of responsibility in the older child toward the baby. Nancy and Bobby can help choose dresses, sweaters, blankets, and they might be asked

where the crib or dresser should be set. If the older child is to give his room to the new baby and move into another one, be sure to give fully as much attention to his new room, as to the nursery. A few new frills, or a more grown-up appearance will flatter him, and make him feel important.

The attitude of the father is reflected in the child. A careful unconcern about the expected arrival, and an increased tenderness and cooperativeness toward the mother will give a pattern for the child to follow.

As to the biological aspects of the situation, we have abandoned the old wives' tale of the stork, or the doctor's little black bag. In this enlightened age, it is best to answer questions truthfully, and to explain the processes of nature. This will forestall the child going to less fact-full or even indecent sources of mis-information.

**T**HE AMOUNT of information you will give your child will depend on his age, and on his natural curiosity. Do not force him to listen to more than he can readily understand. Some children of more mature minds will want to know how the baby was started, what part grows first, how you know when to expect the baby and the like. Since there is nothing to be ashamed of in this course of events, there should be no hushed-up discourse. When Nancy wants to know where the baby is now, explain that he is in a safe, warm nest inside mother's body, where he is growing strong enough to come out into the world. If Bobby wants to know how the baby is to get out of mother's body, tell him that nature and God will open a way when the baby is ready. Tell him that mother will need care and rest for a few days afterward; that will prepare him for her stay in the hospital. Sometimes an overactive child must be told these things early, so as not to injure mother or baby. This challenges the child's respect for his mother, and also honors out the part of the baby's existence.

*Continued on page 29.*



## His Helper

God needs so many helpers  
To care for me and you,  
I'd like to be a helper  
To care for others, too!

—ANONYMOUS

## Prayer

Know our gratefulness, our Father, for the food that builds up and sustains our bodies and for the infinite opportunities for our spirits to grow strong in thy care. We thank thee for work and for play, for laughter and for tears. Help us to be the same in joy or grief. Help us to be kind and good. Amen.<sup>1</sup>

## My Master Was a Worker

My Master was a worker,  
With daily work to do,  
And he who would be like him  
Must be a worker too;  
Then welcome honest labor,  
And honest labor's fare,  
For where there is a worker,  
The Master's man is there.

My Master was a comrade,  
A trusty friend and true,  
And he who would be like him  
Must be a comrade too;  
In happy hours of singing,  
In silent hours of care,  
Where goes a loyal comrade,  
The Master's man is there.

My Master was a helper,  
The woes of life he knew,  
And he who would be like him  
Must be a helper too;  
The burden will grow lighter,  
If each will take a share,  
And where there is a helper  
The Master's man is there.

—WILLIAM G. TARRANT

## Prayer

Father of Life, we thank thee today for life itself. We thank thee for all that life offers. We thank thee for opportunity to give and to serve, for the privilege of work, for minds to think thy thoughts after thee. Forgive our failures. Forgive our headstrong waywardness. Give us understanding and patience. Lift up thy Spirit within us that it may fill us with light and love. Accept our thanks for all good things. Amen.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>From *Father, We Thank Thee* by William Clough. Copyright 1949 by Pierce and Smith. By permission of Abingdon-Cokesbury Press.

## WORSHIP IN T

with You



## —WORSHIPING

From the very beginning of his history, his very nature, man has known work.

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat

—Genesis 3

Man goeth forth unto his work

And to his labor until the evening.

—Psalm 104

When Moses gave the laws to Israel, he in work.

Six days shalt thou work, but on the s day thou shalt rest; in plowing time a harvest thou shalt rest.

—Exodus 34

Every young child is eager to do the things his parents do. He wants to "help" with household task, with outside work, and with things he sees his parents doing. If he is allowed to do such things as he has the ability to do, from the very beginning have the background of appreciating work that makes life comfortable. Without such preparation, it is no wonder some children later in life take for granted the good things they enjoy without realizing the necessary to provide them.

Work is both a privilege and a blessing. Well done brings satisfactions that may find expression in worship. A few words spoken, sung, to thank God for work and the joy it brings will do much to color a child's attitude toward work for all of his life.

For thou shalt eat the labor of thy hands.  
Happy shalt thou be, and it shall be  
with thee.

—Psalm 128

In our society one cannot be self-sufficient. Every man has work which he does for the benefit of others, but he must also depend upon their work to provide some of the necessities of life. Children need



# Children



## TOUGH WORK

to appreciate the work done by others for well-being. Some of the poems on these pages as the Scripture verses will help in this.

He who plants and he who waters are equal, and each shall receive his wages according to his labor.

—1 Corinthians 3:8.

So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto half the height thereof; for the people had a mind to work.

—Nehemiah 4:6.

There is also a compulsion about work. Everyone must recognize that his needs cannot be met by his own efforts. Paul made this perfectly clear to the early Christians.

We were not idle when we were with you, for we did not eat anyone's bread without paying, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you. . . . We gave you in our conduct an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave this command: If any one will not work, let him not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work in quietness and to earn their own living.

—2 Thessalonians 3:7-12.

Jesus forever glorified work by his own attitude and example. He chose working men to be his apostles and apostles. He entered into their work. (See Matt. 13:3-8; 24:34; 47-48; John 4:2.)

But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working still, and I am working."

—John 3:17.

## The Song of the Friendly Helpers

God, our loving Father,  
I'm glad as I can be  
For the friendly milkman,  
Who works so hard for me.

God, our loving Father,  
I'm glad as I can be,  
For the busy farmer,  
Who works so hard for me.<sup>1</sup>

—ANONYMOUS

## In Praise of Farmers

Seeds were planted by the farmer,  
In his garden, by his toil;  
Rain from heaven fell upon them,  
God's warm sun shone on the soil.

Soon a little plant stretched upward,  
Lifted green leaves to the sky,  
Blessed by God, his gift to people,  
Promised food for by and by.

For his work we thank the farmer,  
For his watchfulness and care;  
And to God our love we offer  
For his bounty everywhere.<sup>2</sup>

—REBECCA RICE

## All the World's Working

I would not be idle or waste half my days,  
While others are busy in all sorts of ways:  
Through earth, air, and ocean this truth is expressed,  
That all the world's working and workers are blessed.

By toil of how many comes comfort for one:  
I live by the labor that others have done.  
At plow, forge, and spindle, in mines and at sea,  
There are people toiling whose work is for me.

The wisest and greatest in work take delight,  
Whatever their hand finds they do with their might;  
Lord, make me a worker, to toil with good cheer,  
That earth may be better because I am here.

—A. CAPES TARBOLTON

<sup>1</sup>From *When the Little Child Wants to Sing*. Copyright, Elizabeth Whitehouse.

<sup>2</sup>From *Exploring God's Out-of-Doors*, by Rebecca Rice. Copyright, The Pilgrim Press. Used by permission.



# GOOD FAIRIES

## *in the garden*



*A Story by*

ELEANOR HAMMOND

JAMIE AND Joan looked over the picket fence at the garden in front of old Mrs. Ketly's cottage.

"Look how long the grass is getting," Jamie said.

"Look how the weeds are almost covering up the pansies in the flower bed," Joan sighed.

"There's nobody to take care of the grass and flowers since Mrs. Kelty went away," Jamie said.

"If she comes back, Mrs. Kelty is going to feel sorry her garden looks so untidy," Joan told him.

Mrs. Kelty had been such a nice neighbor. Jamie and Joan missed her since she had gone to stay with her daughter on the other side of the city. Mrs. Kelty had made wonderful cookies. She had always called Jamie and Joan over to have some when she made them. She had given Joan a dime for weeding the pansy bed every Saturday and she had given Jamie a dime for running the lawn mower over the grass in the front yard every Saturday.

"Maybe we could go on weeding the pansies and cutting the grass while Mrs. Kelty is away. Wouldn't she be surprised and glad if her yard looked just as nice as usual when she came back?" Joan said.

Jamie thought it was a good idea. "Let's do it," he said.

So Jamie wheeled the lawn mower around into the garden next door and cut the grass neat and short. Joan pulled all the weeds out of the pansy bed.

"Now wouldn't Mrs. Kelty

be surprised," said Joan

to Jamie, "if her

yard looked just as nice

as usual?"

"Doesn't it look better?" Joan said happily.

"Why it looks as if good fairies had been at work in my garden!" somebody said.

Joan and Jamie jumped. It was Mrs. Kelty herself who had come quietly in from the car that had stopped in front of the cottage.

Mrs. Kelty smiled very happily. "Thank you so much, you good fairies," she told Joan and Jamie. "We knew you'd like to have the garden neat when you came back to live here," Joan said.

"I would—only I'm not going to live here any more," Mrs. Kelty told the children. "I'm going to live with my daughter."

Joan and Jamie felt very much disappointed. They missed Mrs. Kelty when she drove away again, after getting the things she had come to fetch from her old home.

"I guess it was a waste of time to make the garden neat," Jamie said unhappily.

"Oh, no it wasn't!" a pleasant voice said.

Joan and Jamie jumped again. There was a very pleasant-looking young woman coming through the gate. After her came a little boy and girl just as old as Joan and Jamie.

"We're going to live in the cottage now," said the little boy.

"We're so glad the garden is so pretty and neat," said the little girl.

"We're sure we are going to like living next to such kind, helpful neighbors as you are," the children's mother told Jamie and Joan.

"Oh, it's going to be even more fun having you for neighbors than it was to have old Mrs. Kelty," Joan and Jamie said happily.

And it was.



# it's the FOURTH of JULY

*Children will thrill to a red,  
white, and blue party. Paper  
hats and even a military march  
around the back yard will make  
it a gala occasion*



By LOUISE PRICE BELL

**J**ULY IS A fine time to suggest to the children to love "The Fourth" and all that goes with it. Besides, parents and teachers should do all possible to help youngsters to realize that they are mighty fortunate to be Americans.

Even if the party is not held on any of the first four days of the month, it can still be a typically American party with red, white

and blue paper hats and "snap-pers," games and stunts built about those colors, and about patriotism itself. Perhaps Daddy will dress up like Uncle Sam at supper time, and thus finish the party off with a gala and dramatic swoop. Any child will feel mighty important to have Uncle Sam take him home from a party!

Let the children make and send

the invitations. For a patriotic affair they will be delighted if they are allowed to paste stickers on white correspondence cards, write the summons in red pencil, then address, seal, and mail them.

After all the children have arrived, ask them to form a circle and join hands. Any summer party is best held out-of-doors, so plan to have all the activities in the garden, patio, or backyard. When the circle is formed and all the children are quiet, tell them to close their eyes and keep them closed until they hear the whistle. This whistle, by the way, is one of the best possessions a party-giving mother can have because it eliminates the screeching and calling, always to be avoided, but which almost seems necessary when many tots are playing and chattering. One blast on the whistle will stop all sound, attract attention, and delight the youngsters.

As soon as all eyes are closed, go about the circle, placing red, white and blue hats atop the small heads; then blow the whistle. Of course, it will be very hard for the children to keep from peeking and there will be many whispered *ohs* and *ahs* as they feel that something is being put on their heads. When they open their eyes and see the gaily decked folk about them, they will be delighted.

Ask: "What song shall we sing that is about our country?" From the suggestions given, choose the favorite and have all join in singing as they march about in a circle.

Next have a *Sharp Eyes Test*. Before the party, you should have prepared a large sheet of white paper upon which you have pasted pictures of objects that you feel reasonably sure the children will know . . . all people or things relating to America. Blindfold the children, one at a time, stand them before the paper, tell them to look closely and see how many things they can see while you count to ten slowly. Then turn the youngster about and have him tell you how many things he saw. Keep a record of the number remembered. It is a good idea to have this test in a distant part of the garden; per-

*(Continued on page 27.)*





—Devaney

By RUTH E. LENTZ

*planning together in the*

**FAMIL**

HEARTHSTON



*A happy family living together  
with a minimum of friction and  
maximum of fun, learning loving-  
kindness, tolerance—a  
family council can help you to  
achieve just this!*

THE TOWNE family had been making plans for a Fourth of July holiday celebration that did not include outsiders, for a family "oneness" had been cultivated carefully through the years. Then came a letter from friends, former neighbors, the Brownes, who now lived many miles away.

As Mother Towne read, "We have the Fourth of July week end free and would love to spend it with you," there were mingled and varied reactions from the family. Loudest of all was Bill's, "Aw, that spoils everything! More girls! I'm gonna disappear for three days!"

The sudden change in plans, the disappointment of some members of the family, as well as the pleasure of others called for a session of the Towne Family Council, a plan instituted in this household several years previously.

Mother and Father Towne realized that arbitrary decisions by either parent or by a spoiled child are not wholesome, democratic, or Christian. The family council method is a balance of freedom and responsibility, a democratic meeting of a family to plan together through creative discussion shared in by all members. Each contributes from his own experience, information, and capability.

In no other country in the world is the family so free to work out its destiny in spite of mercenary and persistent influences such as the radio, television,

and advertising. We take for granted our privileges and many times fail to assume responsibility for preserving and developing the blessing of Christian democracy.

The alert, creative family appreciates this opportunity, for they know that here first lessons in sharing are learned, not only of possessions but of responsibilities, difficulties, and pleasures. Here all learn the give and take of life, personal responsibility, and thoughtfulness toward others.

Considerations in the family council are taken seriously and no one ridicules or disparages the contributions of younger members of the group. Each family member is an individual whose opinions and suggestions are respected.

The meeting of a family council may arise as the result of an emergency or problem that calls for informal group discussion and solution. As the family circle grows in number or age-level the desire for a formal council emerges. So a time is set when all may give undivided attention, officers are elected, and a plan of procedure adopted.

A chairman or president and secretary are elected for short terms, sometimes serving in rotation. Each family adapts the form according to size and age involved. Younger members serve on committees rather than as officers.

The formal meeting opens with a brief prayer or the repeating of the family creed, composed by the council. They might write one such as, "The Towne Family aims to work and plan together in a spirit of love and unselfishness. We agree to differ, but resolve to love, through the help of God our Father." Some families enjoy using a password or secret symbol.

The order of business is agreed upon in various ways. Matters for discussion are written on slips of paper, handed to the chairman earlier, and advanced by him in the order of their reception. Or the items are posted on the Family Bulletin Board and their order of importance decided.

CONSTRAINT as well as skillful guidance on the part of mother and father maintains the quality of frankness, consideration, and understanding necessary if a Christian spirit is to pervade the meeting.

If the children are pre-school and elementary ages, the discussion and assignments of responsibility are simple and brief. The value of the meaning of *mine*

# COUNCIL



## Characteristics of a Family Council

A family council is a Christian democracy because it:

(a) plans cooperatively; (b) develops consciousness, frankness; (d) encourages creative thinking and ness of we rather than I; (c) develops patience, kind-practice, shares plans, responsibilities, difficulties, and joys; (e) strengthens family loyalty and unity, encourages development of self-discipline, gives opportunity to study "values," learns and lives Christian social principles.

### Christian Social Principles

(a) the unique worth of every person; (b) mutual respect for the rights of each person; (c) responsibility of each for all and all for each.

and *thine* learned by younger members of the group is important to remember. When adolescents and teen-agers are present, discussions are often unhurried, frank, and even irrelevant to the adult minds. This offers opportunity in learning the art of patience, and realizing that immediate action may not always be wise or possible.

As children grow older, they develop the capacity to study a problem not only in its present light but in its future possibilities. This growth of perception, developed and shared within the family circle, is one of the most interesting values of the council.

The council meeting may close with a brief "sing" or with one song that is known as the family song. Composing this may be a project of the group; or an especially popular hymn like "I Would Be True" may be selected. Some families enjoy the fun of a game or two at the end of a formal council.

Let us return to the Towne family as they gather about the cleared dinner table to consider plans relating to the letter from the Brownes. There are few weeks in the life of this family but what problems, emergencies, special interests or even crises arise calling for a Council meeting. Some are "quickies" at the breakfast table, or whenever the majority can give a few minutes' attention to sudden matters that require guidance.

The Fourth of July week-end guest situation meant adjustments in plans and many details to work out. So a regular meeting had been called by Bill, who recently assumed the chairmanship now that he was twelve years old. Mother was secretary, so she read again the letter from the Brownes. All agreed after a brief discussion that a prompt invitation should be dispatched by Mother as secretary and official hostess.

Sleeping arrangements loomed up as a first problem, for there were only three bedrooms, one for the parents and two-year-old Sue, one for fourteen-year-old Nan, another for Bill and Tom who were six. The Brownes included parents, three-year-old Mary, six-year-old Jack, and fourteen-year-old Ann. Shifting and rearranging meant discomforts, inconveniences and crowding, but Dad reminded them of the previous summer's holiday when all enjoyed a happy week in a one-room cabin.

Nan suggested that both families pretend that they were on a vacation and then they would not expect

the luxury of roominess and convenience. This added zest and fun to the planning. The meals would be picnic style; a schedule of duties, including assignments for the guests, were to be written out and posted by a committee composed of Mother, Bill and Nan.

The fishing trip which Bill, Tom, and their father had been anticipating would include all the men and boys in the two families, while Nan and her mother had an informal lawn party and tea so that old friends might drop in to visit with Mrs. Browne, Ann and little Mary.

"Now, what about Sunday?" asked Bill, for he remembered that the Brownes were of a different religious faith. Bill was proud of his unbroken record of church school attendance and eager to maintain it. The Townes decided to invite the Brownes to accompany them to their church, but assure them that it would be understood if not accepted. Mother reminded the family, "If they see we are sincere in the welcome we give them in our home, they will feel the same about our church-home."

Spoke Dad quietly. "Every time we widen our family circle we grow richer. I'd like to thank God for that blessing now." And as the Towne Family Council came to a close, each one offered up his own brief, "Thank you, God."

The Towne Family Council, a practicing democracy—this is the goal of that small, intimate world. But multiplied a thousandfold, it will lift the spirit of democracy within our nation and eventually throughout all humankind.



"And it's no use trying to worm your way back into my affections, either!"



# STUDY GUIDE

## on "Planning Together in the Family Council"

### I. Introduction to Subject by Leader

1. Recapitulation of definition of "Family Council," the characteristics and three Christian principles.

(See box with article)

2. Problems discussed in a family council.

(The story in the article may be related or re-enacted. However the leader may find it more stimulating for members of the group to pose their own family problems such as, budget, allowances, use of car, television or radio programs, movies, late hours.

### II. Guiding Principles for different Age Groups

#### 1. Pre-school children

A. Young children create an opportunity for older members of the family to serve the less mature.

B. Their presence in the family circle becomes a check upon the others, upon their tempers, actions, remarks and attitudes by being examples to the impressionable, receptive young minds.

C. Their primary need for love and security creates an atmosphere that is wholesome and conducive to Christian attitudes toward mutual problems.

D. The first realization of the meaning of *mine* and *thine* begins to develop through the give and take of family living.

#### 2. Elementary School Children

A. Numerous changes are taking place physically and mentally as well as emotionally. This child may long for the comfort of babyhood but enjoys the newer freedom.

B. Freedom of thought is being born, so wise guidance in the making of decisions and choices is important.

C. Respect for the opinions and wishes of others is a lesson learned in a family council more readily than under some other circumstances.

D. This child begins to assume responsibility for personal appearance, getting along with other people, good manners, self-control (does not cry over hurts). He learns to make the best of disappointments and failures.

E. Definite talents and skills are emerging that call for encouragement, appreciation, cultivation and use within the family.

#### 3. The Adolescent

A. The complexities of life take on significance and challenge. If this young person is surrounded by a feeling of security and understanding within this home, church, and school, he begins to develop a philosophy of life that is wholesome and vigorous.

B. He is neither "adult" nor "child" and therefore is often confused. He resents having to ask permission, to coax for money, to be told flatly what he may or may not do. In short, he resents authority.

C. He may be argumentative, sullen or secretive, especially if he senses or imagines that others in the family are given more privileges, or that his private life is invaded.

D. Comparison and contrast with the homes, parents, privileges, advantages of his acquaintances and friends make him unhappy. However, being idealistic, he senses quickly the unhappiness of others.

E. Leadership skills develop more rapidly at this period of a young person's life. In a family council, confidence, the overcoming of self-consciousness are strengthened through encouragement, the assigning of larger, more dif-

### When Children Come with You

Plan to have a leader who may:

**Conduct a Story Hour.** Stories illustrating Christian patriotism would be appropriate this month.

**Guide in Making Articles.** During vacation time children have time to make things, perhaps begin worth-while hobbies. Helpful suggestions can be found in such books as *Do-It Fun for Boys and Girls* by Mary and Dale Goss.

**Direct Games.** Good books on games may be secured from your church or public library.

**Plan a Special Project.** If you wish the children to have a part in the observance of Freedom and Democracy Sunday and there is not time on Sunday, you might plan the emphasis for this time. Disciple materials may be obtained by writing to Mrs. Ruth Milner, 222 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

icult responsibilities, appreciation, and discreet praise.

### III. General Discussion

1. When Christian principles are learned and lived in a family, problems are solved, decisions reached, and plans developed on a higher level than on the more secular plane.

How does the Council help in these?

2. When all members of the family are involved in a project, self-discipline is learned, for some will have to try to

do cheerfully what is not especially enjoyed. How can parents cultivate an interest in the enthusiasms of the children, such as games of "pretend," baseball, movie stars, or a puppet show on television?

3. Overanxiety and fear cause parents to view their children's decisions as inexperienced and impulsive. It is ever wise to allow a child to "suffer the consequences"?

4. The family council is a home leadership training school where each member is encouraged to use and to cultivate his talents and skills.

5. Democracy at home enlarges the area of common interests whether it is home decoration, flower gardening, model-building, or doll collection.

### IV. Illustrations

(If typical family cases are not presented by members of the group, the following may be substituted and used effectively by role-playing)

1. Nan as cheerleader and Bill as manager of the Junior High basketball team, are required to report to the school early each Friday evening. That necessitates leaving home as soon as dinner is over, although clearing away and doing dishes are their responsibility each evening. How may the Townes adjust to this change in schedule?

2. Six-year-old Tom "found" fifty cents on the floor of the room he shared with Bill, and bought a "yo-yo" he had coveted. When Bill reported the loss of some money, Tom was resentful that the fifty cents was taken out of his savings and allowance. Was the Family Council's decision justified?

### Reading Sources

PAUL E. JOHNSON. *Christian Love*. Chapter V.

CHARLES CURTIS. "How Your Family Can Help At Home." *Coronet Magazine* January, 1951.

L. FOSTER WOOD. *Growing Together in the Family*.

### Visual Aids

*Family Life* 16 mm. Sound Coronet Films, Coronet Bldg. Chicago, Ill.

*You and Your Family* 16 mm. black and white

Association Films 347 Madison Ave. New York.

*Your Family* 16 mm. Sound Coronet Films Coronet Bldg. Chicago, Ill.

By RUTH E. LENTZ





—Bloom

By ESTHER MILLER PAYLER

**S**AY, MOM, wish I could make a recording of all you tell me to do sometimes," remarked my teen-age son, when we were talking of the recording machine of a friend.

"Yes," piped my fourteen-year-old daughter. "Each of us should be two people to get everything done!"

Those remarks, while said in teasing tones, had all the truth and directness of youth's talk. They made me think seriously, and I found out some things about what I was expecting of my boys and girls. It surprised me! Perhaps if you make a similar checkup, either written down or in your mind, you, too, will be astonished. You may want to change schedules a bit.

Too much to do can be as harmful to a youth as too little to do. The old saying that an idle mind is the devil's workshop can be true of boys and girls,

but when they have too much to do, they can learn the bad habit of merely skimming the surface of things and always hurrying.

Too much to do can bring about the result of doing many things halfway but none thoroughly and satisfactorily. Just as a friend remarked about a co-worker in a church organization who did not do all that was expected of her in her office, "She spreads herself too thin." Are you encouraging your teen-age sons and daughters to do just this, by piling on their more than they can do?

This getting too much to do creeps upon youth gradually, unless the parent is on guard and sees what is going on. For instance, our sixteen-year-old Bill is a sophomore in high school. This is no an easy grade as any experienced teacher will tell you. As a teacher, I can say that every grade has some difficult new skills or subject matter for the



# UCH

## *to do!*

*Too much to do can be just as*

*dangerous as too little to do.*

*What are you expecting of your*

*teen-age boys and girls?*

pupil to master. Even if he is bright it requires time and concentration to master his subjects properly and prepare him for the next grade and for college or earning his living. Bill had plenty of homework and outside reading, also book reports; one to two hours of homework he always had.

Trombone lessons took one-half hour a week. He was required to practice at least one-half hour daily. More practice would have been better. He belonged to the Boy Scouts. The meeting was one hour a week. Often there were hikes, or extra activities with the Cubs. Bill was a member of the youth choir at church, which took one afternoon after school for practice. He was a member of the high school's glee club and chorus, orchestra and band. He was an officer in the young people's group at church which met on Sunday evenings. A member of two basketball teams, one at school and one at church, meant time for games and practice during the winter. In summer he played on two baseball teams.

All of these activities were good and for worthy purposes. Which should he drop and which continue? Bill, his father and I faced the problem and discussed it frankly. Bill agreed he had no time for reading or games, relaxing or doing as he pleased, family fun or chores, and that he did have too much to do.

This is what was decided. Perhaps our choices were not the best, but we relieved the tension. The music teacher gladly consented to an every-other-week lesson during the school term. This was to be balanced by two lessons a week during vacation. Cutting down on the number of music lessons, cut practice time in half. It also prevented my nagging Bill about it. Bill gave up one basketball team and one school chorus. He still had a balanced program, but not the constant feeling of being driven from one activity to another.

A mother of three children, all of high school age or over, had the problem of her fourteen-year-old son, usually well-tempered, becoming irritable and uncooperative. One day he blurted out: "I get sick of having to do this and that at a certain time and in a certain way, never having a chance to do anything because I want to in the way I want!"

**HIS MOTHER** said in speaking of the experience: "He just had too much to do! When we cut down on his program of outside activities, he became his good-tempered self again."

One mother confessed her thirteen-year-old daughter was so rushed it made both the girl and her nervous and irritable trying to keep up with all the demands. She said: "It was turning me into a nagger, and making the girl irritable. When we cut down on activities, it helped all of us to relax and stop jumping at each other."

Too much to do can apply to parents as well as boys and girls. When a parent is capable and belongs to a church and other organizations, there can develop so many demands outside the home and occupation that the strain prevents him, or her, from the best performance of their duties as parents.

Mr. Frank found that with lodge, church and committee meetings, he seldom had an evening at home. He was not able to converse with his sons and daughters, play games, help with homework or in short have any true companionship with them. He did not realize it until he overheard one of his boys say to another: "Don't ask Dad. He never has time."

**A FATHER SAYS:** "Just because sons and daughters are teen-agers does not mean they need less attention. It is only a different kind. They need someone to listen to them and guide them without domineering. They have many painful adjustments to make and problems to solve. They need to know someone is rooting for them. I know how it was when I was that age. I didn't realize then how my father was guiding me through our discussions."

A mother with a good education was a talented leader. She said "yes" to many requests to serve on committees and take offices in various organizations. She soon found herself unable to get back home before her two daughters got home from high school. She often had to hurry her housework to get to a meeting. Often she was nervous and irritable. More and more she was saying, "I haven't time." Jobs to which she had said yes because there was



**A salute to tiny Iceland, which has contributed to  
the United Nations International Children's Emergency  
Relief Fund the equivalent of \$4.60 for every man,  
woman and child.**

not much to do had a way of eating into her time and growing like mushrooms.

At last a sickness pulled her life back into focus, and she was able to see things in their proper order. She realized that first and foremost her job was that of being a Christian wife and mother. All other things had to take second place and those of least importance had to be disposed of.

A neighbor, who accomplished a great deal in spite of running a large house and having a family of five teen-age children, said she gave all the credit to "an elastic schedule which can stretch to meet all needs and yet allows a little slack for my doing as I please for short periods each day."

Daily she carefully plans what must be done and tries to squeeze in one extra item, like gardening or reading. She has developed her powers of concentration, and plunges into a task without dawdling. Between household chores, when the boys and girls are in school, she reads an article in a magazine, a chapter of a book, or studies her church school lesson.

Why not check up today and see if your sons and daughters, you and your marriage partner are suffering from too much to do?

If you find you are, prayer and planning will help you rid yourself of some of the least important tasks and restore your life to a healthy balance.

### **What Church Shall We Go To?**

*(Continued from page 4.)*

you, the scout troop is shifted, a better educational program is set up at another church. A church home cannot be found that way. "We won't commit our children to one church until they're old enough to decide for themselves." People who have no knowledge of washing machines cannot decide intelligently between Maytag and Bendix. Few children living in a religiously sterile atmosphere grow eager to grip religious truths or make religious decisions. "The church we prefer is so far we just can't make it on Sunday morning so we go to the little one next door." This is a valid argument. No matter how strongly committed you feel to one church if it is too far for you to attend regularly it will do you little good. It would be far better to work in a near-by church, concentrating on the commonness of purpose among all Christian churches, than to starve for religious want. Yet the honest couple will still want to know where their common commitment lies and wherein it differs from that of the corner church.

3. Study together the approach of various churches, yours and others. Do you think a church should exist primarily to: (1) provide an unbroken lineage

with the Christian past and present an infallible faith? (2) keep the inspiration and guidance of the Bible before Christians? (3) provide fellowship among people of like faiths? Churches tend to fall into one of these three groups, according to the Right Rev. Angus Dun.<sup>1</sup> Do you think a church should govern itself through a higher organization or on the local level? Should a person go directly to God in prayer or to a priest for intercession? Should a church inspire or should it engage in social welfare? Is Truth handed down from God or is it discovered by people like you? Has all Truth been revealed or is some yet to come? There are churches representing these and other basic views. Your minister can guide you to books and articles to help you in this study. An agreement between you and your fiancée on these beliefs means agreement in most areas of living than only church attendance. Commit to grips with the problem.

4. Let the examination of yourself and study of church beliefs lead to a reconversion of both marriage partners. Maybe this is the time for the active church worker who is avoiding the knowledge she disagrees wholeheartedly with her church tenets to make a change as well as the member not warmly committed. Remember: To offset emotional loyalties fostered since childhood the recommitment must be sincere and deep. See if together you cannot find one church which reflects your deepest personal convictions. We know two couples of Jewish-Protestant faiths who found spiritual unity in the Quaker movement.

5. Commit yourself to the new choice before marriage. Since the commitment is quite as much for you as for your family you certainly will not want to wait until your first child arrives. The wedding itself, performed in your chosen church, would be a fine symbol of your spiritual unity. Or if it seems wiser to bow to family wishes for that ceremony, the first Sunday following the wedding or honeymoon might be chosen for public declaration of the decision you made before marriage.

Fortunate are those young men and women who find each other in their own church groups, summer conferences, work camps, colleges. One of their problems is solved. But they are few compared with the many who find the man or woman they want of another faith. Yet these may be fortunate, too. If they think as seriously of the religious climate of their proposed home as they do of physical and economic preparedness for marriage, they will be forced to examine and evaluate their religious practices and beliefs along with those of their proposed mate. They may be led to a rededication to their own faith or conversion to another which means renewed religious vigor for themselves and spiritual unity for the new family. A lack of common commitment may doom a marriage but possession of it enriches it many times and makes it well worth the emotional struggle which gave it birth.

<sup>1</sup>Dun, Angus. *Prospecting for a United Church*, New York: Harper & Bros.



## It's the Fourth of July

(From page 19.)

haps the sheet might be tacked on a side of the garage or on the garden fence. Good examples are: an American flag, Uncle Sam, The Statue of Liberty, The White House, President Truman, Mr. Roosevelt, Mrs. Roosevelt, The Capitol at Washington, etc. If the children are older, use pictures from important historical scenes, such as Washington Crossing the Delaware, The Signing of the Declaration of Independence, etc.

When all have finished, read the score, and give the child who remembered the greatest number of pictures a small American flag.

Tag games are always fun, so stage *Touch Tag* next. For the wand, have a newspaper tightly wound and then bound about with red, white and blue bunting. Use newspaper instead of a stick for safety's sake, and bunting instead of a flag because the children must never feel that they can use the flag in a playful manner!

Choose one child to be "It," and give him the wand. He touches another child, then that one must catch him as he drops the wand and starts to run. An American flag, placed flat and high against the porch, house or garage, above their reach, may be designated as the safety spot; any child who reaches the home base, which is the area of bare wall directly beneath, cannot be made "It." When one child is caught, another is made "It" and so on.

All youngsters love a parade, so give the party group small flags, then play victrola music for them to march by. The *Stars and Stripes Forever* is excellent for that purpose. This is a good stunt just before supper. After they have marched all around the house and perhaps down the block (which they'll adore!), have them march past you so that you may collect the flags. Tell them to keep on marching until they reach the table.

Have the table set on the porch or in the garden. If it is covered with a red, white and blue paper cloth with napkins to match folded at each place, it will save laundering for you. You might use bright

red oilcloth, purchasable at the dime store and useful many times afterward. In either case, your plates, cups and bowls may be the disposable kind, decorated with flags, or any plain white dishes you have with red gummed flag-seals adorning them on the outside. On the back of each chair, have a balloon for each child, alternating the colors, red, white, blue.

A grand centerpiece would be one of the children's dolls, dressed to look like Uncle Sam, or more red, white and blue balloons, tied to fiddlesticks (or rather limber sticks), and inserted in a perforated glass flower holder, with red, white and blue flowers at the base.

When the guests' appetites are appeased, tell them that they are going to be "Quiz Kids" for a while. Unless the youngsters are very young, they should know most of the important facts about flag etiquette. Thus they will enjoy pretending to be the popular radio kids and answering questions about their flag. The mother of the small host or hostess may imitate the M. C. on the program and the "children" raise their hands if they know the answers. The child whose score is highest at the end of the Quiz may be given a small book about the American flag. Such a book can be purchased at the dime store and is as authentic as it is colorful. Here are suggested questions:

1. How should the flag be raised on a flagpole?

2. When our flag is in a procession with another flag, what is its position?
3. When it is in a procession with a line of other flags, what is its position?
4. Should the flag be flown every day?
5. When the flag is displayed, where should the blue field always be?
6. When the flag is on the wall flat, as on speakers' platform, what is its position?
7. When the flag is crossed with another flag, what is its position?
8. Where is the American flag displayed in church?
9. What does it mean when a flag is at half-mast?
10. Can anything be laid upon the flag?
11. Can the flag be used to decorate home, school, or church or for costumes?
12. Is it permissible to print or write upon our flag?
13. Can the flag be used for advertising?
14. How should old, worn, stained or torn flags be disposed of?
15. By what other names is the American flag sometimes called?

### Answers

1. Raised briskly. Lowered slowly and ceremoniously.
2. It is on the marching right.
3. In front of the center of the line.
4. Never in stormy weather, unless there is some special reason for so doing.
5. Uppermost and at left, i.e., the upper left-hand corner.
6. Above and behind the speaker.
7. It is at the left, with flag-stick in front of that of the other flag.
8. In the chancel it has the position of honor at clergyman's right as he faces the congregation. Outside the chancel, it has the position of honor at the right of the congregation.
9. A symbol of mourning.
10. Nothing except the Bible.
11. No. Red, white and blue bunting may be used, however.
12. No. At all times it should be held in high respect.
13. No!
14. By complete burning.
15. "Old Glory," "Stars and Stripes."

## PROCLAIM LIBERTY!

By ALFRED I. TOOKE

Start at the large letter P at the top and write down every fifth letter until you have used all the letters. You should then have the Biblical text inscribed on the famous Liberty Bell. It is from Leviticus 25:10.





# Family Counselors

**Question:** I am in college and I make good grades. I have wonderful Christian parents with whom all my problems have been discussed. I wanted to work part-time. My parents were willing that I do so if my work did not interfere with my studies and I was most fortunate to get work in the same field as my academic interests. My parents are highly pleased that my work and school are closely related. I am also assured of a much better position as I advance with school training. Work and school seem perfect.

My problem is this: I have always been active in Sunday school and church. I get off work at 8:30 on Sunday morning. Naturally I am tired and sleepy from being on duty all night. I wish to get in bed as quickly as possible. I am grateful for my job. I know I will never get away from church, but my parents are extremely disappointed that I have not attended church since I have this particular schedule which probably will not be more than a year or fourteen months. I feel I need rest but I can't be entirely free and happy with my parents feeling that regardless of any circumstances my church attendance should be uppermost in planning my schedule.

Please advise me. I am saving my parents money too. I thought they would appreciate that but they evidence the idea I am spiritually lost without regular attendance at church.

**Answer:** Just knowing deep down in your own heart that God is first does not always demonstrate



DOROTHY  
FAUST

ELIZABETH  
NORTON  
JONES



to our relatives and fellowmen that God is actually first.

Undoubtedly you are extremely fortunate that your temporary employment is such a satisfaction to you and that as you progress scholastically you also have the opportunity of growing into your rightful place with the qualifications necessary for tomorrow's goal as a leader in your field.

I did not gather that you are working just to receive a pay check. It is impossible to keep the proper ideal regarding a goal if finances play too prominent a part.

I doubt if you would be experiencing your present harmonious school-work relationship if you had not carried great devotion to God-like ideals thus far. If complete unity and harmony with your family means attending church two or three hours a week, it seems

to me your sacrifice of that particular period for rest will only give you more freedom and peace of mind in the long run. Material rest of the body is not always as important as practical understanding of oneness with those around us. If you lovingly and willingly share this time with God, your church and your parents, I am sure you will be greatly benefited. The spirit must keep pace with the letter or your weariness will be greater than the discord you now experience. Nothing is worth doing unless it is done with the proper spirit.

D. F.

**Question:** Our son is a fourteen-year-old Boy Scout. The meeting and the Scout parties last until eleven at night, or later. We insist that he be in at ten, and he says it is embarrassing to have to leave before the others. Don't you think he should conform to our home standards, which we feel are for his good?

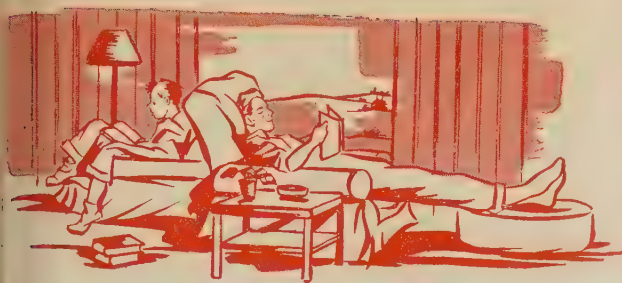
**Answer:** I can't answer with merely a *yes* or *no*, for so many things have to be considered. First is he in good health, so that a later bedtime would not tire him? Is the troop meeting in a fairly good section of town, so that you need not fear for his safety in getting home? How are his school grades? Is he a dependable boy?

If these questions show no problems, I should think this would be an excellent time to "cut the apron strings." Surely there are few better places for a fourteen-year-old to be than with alert, clean-minded, ambitious Scouts under the fine guidance of consecrated Scout leaders.

If, however, you feel the hour is too late for his well-being, try another solution before embarrassing him. Talk with the Scout leader. Perhaps by starting earlier and avoiding wasted time, he could dismiss the troop formally a little earlier. Talk with other parents to see if they agree with you. Personally, I feel that eleven o'clock would be a fair "at home" hour for a fourteen-year-old on Scout meeting nights. Be glad he's a Scout. Be wise enough to let him grow in responsibility.

E. N. J.





## Books for the Hearth Side

### MISSION STUDY BOOKS

By Eleanor Hull

When you consider the spiritual needs of our country do you not feel that someone should conduct a mission to America? That is what the church is doing when it looks to the renewal and expansion of its own life in our country. *Mission to America*, by Truman Douglass, gives powerful expression to the author's convictions as to the supreme importance of the Christian Church and its mission to our own land. The book is the basic presentation for adults of the 1951-52 home mission study theme, "Churches for Our Country's Needs." It is written in vigorous style. With hope and faith the author carries home to the reader a challenge to join heartily in the home mission enterprise. Dr. Douglass himself has given aggressive leadership in the home missionary field both within the Congregational Christian Church and in interdenominational circles. (Cloth, \$2.00; paper, \$1.25.)

*Now!* Not today nor tomorrow but *Now!* Be sure that this interesting little volume is on your family reading table! *Now!* is something new in missionary journalism. For it a score of writers have prepared special features and short, provocative articles which illustrate clearly and concisely the way an effort is being made to present a Christian ministry to all people in the country. Why present that ministry? The subtitle of *Now!* answers that question: *Everybody Needs a Church*. Line drawings, an eight-page picture insert, and stimulating short articles in digest style make this little booklet edited by Mary Margaret Brace and Lucy M. Eldredge one that will be welcome in every Christian home and appreciated by all the members of the family who can read. (Paper, 35 cents.)

Have you read *The Third Wish*, by Eleanor Hull? It is good reading for junior highs. The dilemmas of a young student are solved in the adventures of a lively youth fellowship that endeavors to establish a new church in town. This is a book for adolescents but parents and teachers also will enjoy making the acquaintance of the young high school students who live in the pages of the book and in the lively line drawings that open the chapters. (Cloth, \$2.00; paper, \$1.25.)

Junior readers will greatly enjoy *Hungry Hollow*, by Anna Rose Wright. It is a story of adventure and exploration in the Tennessee mountains by a city boy and two country boys. In the story the mountain people come very much alive. So does a missionary doctor who works among them. The excellent illustrations by Oliver Grimly add humor and authentic local color to the tale. (Cloth, \$2.00; paper, \$1.25.)

*Davey in the Sandhills*, by Anne M. Halladay, is a book for children in first, second, and third grades. It is the story of a boy who accompanies his father through the sandhills of Nebraska, visiting families, and holding vacation church schools. The lad encounters adventures in the form of a roundup, a fishing trip, and a mystery. The book is beautifully illustrated by Jean Martinez. (Cloth, \$2.00; paper, \$1.25.)

### What! No Stork?

(Continued from page 15.)

Each child will have to be prepared in a different way, his mother knowing what to tell, and how to present the information so as to satisfy him without warping his mind, or leading him into fields of fantasy. Even a child of two can be made to understand a baby is expected, while no details need be explained.

If the older child is resentful of the expected arrival, let the subject drop for awhile, then try reading stories of babies. If he knows stories of Jesus and Moses when they were babies, reread them for his enjoyment. Use a popular form, rather than the King James Version. Pictures help in arousing a feeling of tenderness and responsibility. From these small beginnings, bring the child gradually to be interested in live babies, their looks and their ways. Show him a baby in a carriage, or let him play briefly with one of your friend's recent arrival. Then bring up the subject of your own expected addition, showing him that he must be a big brother (or

sister) to the little one, helpful in tending him, and always considerate of the baby's feelings. Stress the point that he was always treated carefully, so the little baby must be too, when he arrives.

Above all, be sure that your first child has all the love he needs, reassure him that the new baby will in no way affect the attention you give him, and make him feel wanted and secure in the home life. One way to do this is to give him little added duties, nothing beyond his capabilities, but in keeping with the extra work you will have. For instance, a small child can be taught to pick up his toys instead of leaving them for mother; a five- or six-year-old can learn to dust or wipe dishes; an eight- or nine-year-old can run simple errands; and an older child will know he or she must do little extra tasks about the house without being told. Do not force these duties on the child, rather suggest he will be helping to keep mother happy.

Be sincere, loving and lovable, present the truth in proper form for your child, and you will all be blessed with added happiness and a wholesome feeling of togetherness.



## The Lord's Business

(Continued from page 13.)

"Davie!" she cried and was down on her knees beside him. "What's the matter?" She took him in her arms.

He gazed into her face in shocked unbelief, dragged a sleeve across his eyes, then just sat there, long lashes going up and down slowly as he struggled for self-control.

"Tell me, Davie," she insisted gently. "What's the matter?"

Then it came, a little sheepish, perhaps, but honest.

"I—I thought you was gone," he mumbled shyly.

Flora comforted him, as only a mother can, but she didn't understand altogether. Ken, however, did understand.

"Of course he thought you'd gone off and left him," he said. "He's been expecting it all the time. You see, they've done nothing but walk out on him all his life." And then once again he added, "I know."

He took Davie and the dog and the three of them went for a walk in the moonlight down by the brook. What they talked about—well, there simply are things you leave to the father of the family, that's all.

**K**EN was trimming the sparse hair of an elderly customer. To look on, one would think he was indeed concentrating on his work, but in reality the big gentle-faced barber wasn't there at all—he was at home.

How wonderful it had been lately, watching the unfolding of Davie's personality, seeing a fear-ridden little creature changed into, well, just a boy. Warmth went through Ken to think he had had a part in the change—and Flora, too, of course. *She* was the one who had had the faith it took to bring the whole thing about in the first place.

That faith of Flora's! Ken thought about it wistfully. Now, if he had just a *fragment* of it, he wouldn't even be here—and who could blame him? He glanced at the clock and frowned to see that the boss had again stolen twenty

minutes of his (Ken's) lunch hour. Lately he'd made almost a steady practice of shunting disagreeable customers to Ken's chair, and being otherwise as hateful as a bullying person can be to a meek one. *Oh, if one could only be sure. . .*

Suddenly, the way it often is with the slow-provoked, Ken was flooded with sureness—almost like Flora. When the boss finally returned with some flimsy, careless excuse he was completely flabbergasted by being given notice that Ken was through, *right then and there*. He was so amazed that he could only stand there numbly and watch Ken hang his white coat away with gentle determination and reach for his hat.

"But what'll you do, man?" he stuttered at last. "Where'd you get another job? You been with me for ten years! I don't see . . ."

But Ken was going out the door. He closed it gently behind him. He walked up the hill toward home as in a dream and he didn't really come to until he sat on the garden bench with Flora after supper. It was then that worry nibbled at him again. For a time, he just sat there, unseeing eyes on Davie playing blithely with his dog near the swing. Then the words came.

"I don't know what you'll think," he began slowly, his elbows on his knees, his big hands clapping and unclapping nervously.

## PROVERBS 17:17



A FRIEND LOVES A  
ALL TIMES, AND A  
BROTHER IS BORN  
FOR ADVERSITY.

"but—I quit the job today. There, now it was told. If on Flora didn't worry too much. . .

But Flora clapped her hand. "Oh, Ken, I'm so glad!" she cried.

Ken mopped his forehead. "But I don't know how it'll come out, he warned her. "I don't know where I'd find another job. I . . .

"Why look for one?" she urged him, her hand firm and steady on his arm. She nodded toward the garden. "There's your job, Ken," she pointed out. "I knew it at the time."

"It might," he mused, "it just might work." His eyes were alight now. "Yes, it just might work!"

"Ken, it would!" Flora jubilated. "We'd put in hot beds, enlarge the strawberry bed, and—oh, do all sorts of things! Make a real truck farm! I'm just full of ideas!"

"But I wouldn't want you working so hard," he objected gently.

"Oh, I wouldn't," she assured him blithely. "Not with you here taking over. But—" she cocked her prettily graying head at him. "you'd let me putter a little wouldn't you?"

"I guess I'd have to," he laughed.

For a time they sat in contented silence; then it seemed the old pessimism must just have one last fling with Ken.

"I only hope I did right," he worried. "With all the expense we've had—buying this place, taking Davie, and all—and now this new expense. It's likely to be hard going for a while." He turned to her. "How'll we make it?"

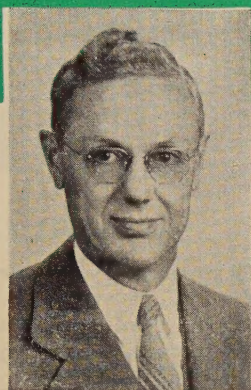
Flora gave him a long, steady look. "That's *the Lord's business*," she said sturdily. Then she gathered his arm close. "Look Ken," she said earnestly, "the whole thing's been his business right along—you and I—this place—and Davie, too, and how wonderfully he's attended to it all! Believe me, dear, we can leave the rest to him, too."

Ken didn't speak. He couldn't. He could only lay his hand over hers on his arm, sure and very tender. But after a while he told what was in his heart. "I believe," he said. "How could I doubt when he gave me you?"



# WHAT THE CHURCHES ARE DOING IN

## *family life*



By J. D. MONTGOMERY

The summer provides unusual opportunities for families to share experiences. But in order that this common sharing may result in well-rounded Christian growth, parents must work with church leaders to provide more than physical activities. Together they must help members of the family grow spiritually.

This means that they will not only emphasize family living, camping, vacation church school, or some other summer outing for members of the family, but will recognize that church and home alike have a contribution to make. The program will endeavor to integrate the various activities so that participants of every age will have constructive experiences which contribute to Christian development.

One of the ways by which these opportunities may be brought to the family is the church camp. Church camping can help children and parents to find a dynamic purpose for their lives with a deeper appreciation of Jesus and his way of life. The church alone is prepared to bring to camping insights into a fuller sharing of the Christian gospel. It offers along with outdoor group living activities and attitudes which center around the Bible, worship, history and Christian service. There are a part of the Christian's rich heritage.

The church camp not only provides a Christian atmosphere, but it is also a Christian community in which each person finds a sense of security. Young and old become responsible for discovering ways of fostering community feeling as a result of the respect of the campers for one another as persons and because of their concern for the welfare of the entire camp fellowship.

This joy and fellowship of the church camp may find its widest meaning when a group of churches join together in a district, state or regional family camp.

### *Church Night with Family Emphasis*

In one of the churches in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, each Tuesday is Church Night. On fifth Tuesdays the emphasis of the program is centered around the home. At one of the recent fifth Tuesday meetings the Sunday school teachers and officers entertained the mothers of all the pupils. More than

half the families of the church responded to the invitation to this program.

The teachers of the ten classes in the Sunday school were asked to be the hostesses at the tables where the mothers of pupils in their classes were seated for the evening meal. Place cards were made by pasting a colorful Scripture seal, together with the name of the mother, on a folded paper.

Teen-age girls met the visitors at the door and gave each a card on which she was asked to write her name and list the names of her children. Each teacher, who had previously been given the place cards for her table, was to greet the mothers of her pupils as they arrived and to be their special hostess all evening, helping them to get acquainted with other mothers. Their hostess took them to visit her classroom, talking to them about her pupils to get their viewpoint and suggestions. Moreover, she would try to interest them in what their children were doing so they would encourage regular attendance.

In addition to the fellowship and the interchange of viewpoints between the teachers and the mothers a brief program was carried out. The superintendent presided and the program consisted of words of welcome, an introduction of the teachers, a talk about the need for a parent-teacher group in each church, and a flannelgraph story from a Bible passage.

### *Family-Centered Sunday Evening Program*

One of the churches in Kingston, Pennsylvania, conducts a family-centered program in the church each Sunday evening. The program lasts for one hour, beginning at 6:30, and is planned for all ages. The attractive feature of this program is that families can come as units and return together. At the church the participants are grouped into six sections. The nursery and kindergarten form one group for pre-school children; school age children from six through nine years form another group; the second four years of grade school from ten through thirteen years of age compose the third group; high school students form another group; the young people the fifth group; and the young adults and adults make up the sixth group. The ages for the school children are based on the divisions in the public school program. Each age group has two adult sponsors.

This plan has been in use for more than two years and has proved successful. Two women of the church who work with children have charge of the nursery-kindergarten group. The next two groups also have separate sessions, with their worship and study planned by their leaders and conducted by members of the group. The other three groups—the high school, the young people and the adults—conduct jointly the devotional part of the program. The three groups then break up into sections for about thirty minutes of study, coming together again for brief closing worship and meditation led by the pastor.

Once each month the age groups have a business meeting and a social following. This gives an added opportunity for fellowship and acquaintance and adds to the group solidarity.





# Over the Back Fence

## **Do We Get What We Pay For ?**

*Hearthstone* hopes not, in this instance at least. For it has come to our attention that, before the Korean trouble, the United States was paying out seventy-two cents of every budget dollar for military purposes, past, present and future.

In contrast one-tenth of one cent goes to support the United Nations, six special UN agencies, and sixteen other international organizations whose efforts are in the direction of peace.

It is interesting to speculate as to what might happen if we had a secretary of a department of peace in our government with a budget of thirty billion dollars with which to wage peace. One may well doubt if the country would be any worse off than we are at present after the billions which have been and are being spent in preparation for war.

## **Youth and Religion**

A study recently published (Ross, *Religious Beliefs of Youth*, Association Press, \$3.00) reveals two things about young people and religion. First, they are pretty passive about it generally, and second, they are confused about its place in their lives. After analyzing an eight-page questionnaire answered by 2,000 youth aged 18 to 29, the author is convinced that religion has practically ceased to provide a challenging purpose which gives young life a sense of direction. Few young people today have the dedicated group purpose of the first disciples or even of young Communists today.

This is a challenge to the Christian home. It must give more definite and conscious guidance to its youth if they are to develop significant Christian characters.

## **Hearthstone in Japan**

A letter from Margaret Garner, missionary teacher in Japan, to Mrs. Carlson, children's editor, reveals the work that *Hearthstone* is doing there. She writes

"After I finish with *Hearthstone* I give it to one of the other missionaries who has two children. She finds it very useful in her own family in preparing family worship and the other helps that are included. She commented to me that it was the most helpful thing of its kind that she had ever seen or used. She works with mothers' classes, kindergarten work, and has found use for it there, although I am not sure just what.

"It seems to me that *Hearthstone* is doing an outstanding job in arrangement, coverage, and eliminating the feeling of being crowded."

Thanks, Margaret, and let us know how *Hearthstone* can be made still more useful.

## **Vacation Days**

July and August are probably the most popular vacation months of the year. This is true in spite of an increasing tendency by many people to take advantage of off season rates at vacation areas. Since most of you will not be home to read much anyway during these two months, *Hearthstone* is issued with thirty-two pages instead of the usual forty-eight.

Vacations are necessary but there are several things from which we ought not take a leave of absence.

Don't take a vacation from:

Your sense of family responsibility and togetherness

Common sense health and safety measures

Habits of safe driving while on the open roads of America

Moral and spiritual ideals, or public worship.



# There's a place in your vacation for GOOD BOOKS

## AGELLANT ON HORSEBACK

By Richard Ellsworth Day. Ride with missionary David Brainerd, a meteor for his master, as he hurries from colonial town to wilderness timber to preach the Word to the American Indian. An exciting story well-documented by careful scholarship of a famous biographer. Forty illustrations.-----\$3.00

## 50 STORIES FROM LIFE

By Leonard R. Jenkins. Bright, sparkling illustrations that touch on every phase of our busy living. Each example gets its inspiration from a Bible text. The book prepared particularly for speakers and also finding favor among readers looking for something new and different. Well indexed.-----\$2.50

## DISCOVERING WAYSIDE TREASURES

By William N. Hutchins. A delightful collection of essays, showing that the beauty of God is reflected in everyday life. The author demonstrates that everything in the world is dynamic and full of spiritual meaning. Each treasure—even a child's word—points a way to Christian living.-----\$2.00

## THE FUTURE IS NOW

By Homer W. Carpenter. A dynamic new appeal for each of us to do our part in building a world capable of survival. Practical ideas to guide us in returning to the principles upon which our country was founded . . . in solving problems of race, color and a divided church . . . in achieving a political renaissance.-----\$2.50

## LIFE AND LAUGHTER

By J. Whitcomb Brouger, Sr. Here is the wit and wisdom of one of our best-known, much-honored preachers in nine lectures that are purposeful and hilarious. Appropriate anecdotes emphasize points of discussion. Brings together inspiring, humorous popular lectures of one of America's eminent speakers.-----\$2.00

## LIKE THE GREAT MOUNTAINS

By Jack Finegan. Eighteen devotional readings for high school and college youth which add worth-while meaning to some of the great doctrines of religious living. Brief and to the point . . . absorbing illustrative material . . . simple and picturesque style.-----\$2.00

## FELLOWSHIP EVANGELISM Through Church Groups

By Harry C. Munro. A new guide for work through church fellowship, study and service groups. Deals with problems of obtaining leaders, getting laymen to accept responsibilities, finding "lost" persons, fellowship cultivation, preparing people for intelligent discipleship . . . as well as giving instructions for setting up the project.-----\$2.00

## BE GLAD YOU'RE A PROTESTANT!

By Harry C. Munro. A book that will go far in transforming youth and adults from Protestants by parentage into Protestants by intelligent choice and firm conviction. Subjects discussed include Protestant salvation, authority, priesthood, freedom, future and responsibility.-----\$1.50

## CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

By Ralph E. Knudsen. The essentials of our faith presented so you can formulate your own beliefs and comprehend them according to Bible teachings. This book may well have been called *Everyman's Theology*. A practical aid to teachers, students and laymen. Fills need of information for average man.-----Paper, 75¢ cloth, \$1.75

## THE COMMUNITY AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By Tilford T. Swearingen. An expanded report of an interdenominational study conference which considered the needs of seven basic types of communities: rural agricultural, rural industrial, county seat, small city, suburban community, large city, and metropolitan city. Detailed suggestions for conducting united local work!-----\$2.00

## COWARDS OR CONQUERORS

By Herschel H. Hobbs. Eight great messages fresh from the pulpit of a prominent radio pastor, who genuinely believes the gospel of Jesus Christ is the divine remedy for all human ills. These sermons were selected because Hobbs' congregation reported that they met their spiritual needs adequately and commendably.-----\$2.00

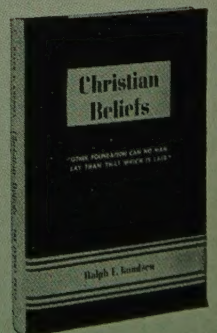
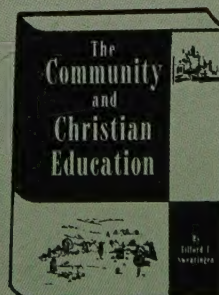
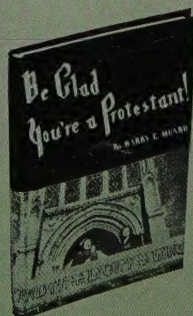
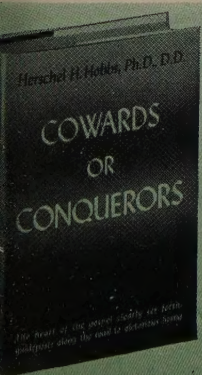
## YOU AND YOUR MINISTER

By Hampton Adams. An appeal to laymen to understand the minister's work more fully and cooperate with him to achieve within the local church a dynamic Christian fellowship.-----\$1.50

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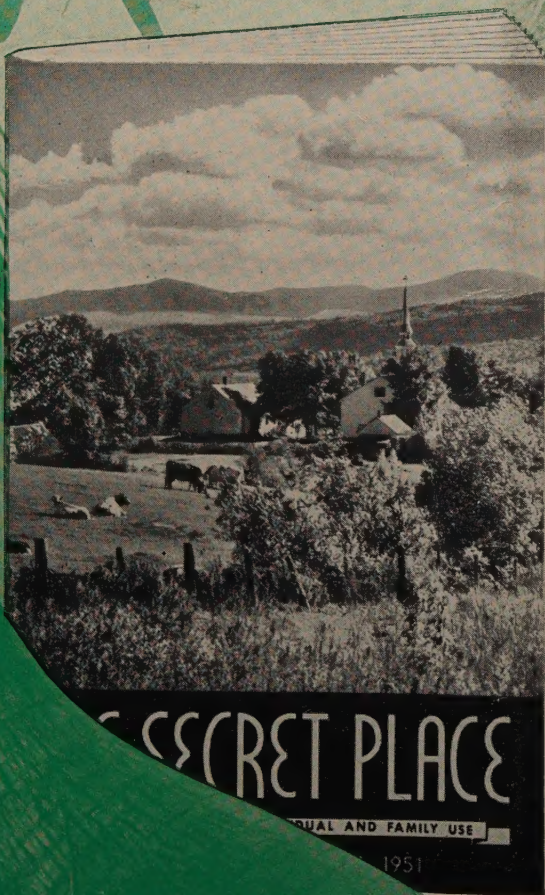
FAR FROM THE HEAT and the grime of the city, along woodland trails, amid quiet scenes—there it is pleasant to meditate . . . and profitable, too. In such surroundings false values disappear.

The practice of family devotionals is not something to be discarded for the summer. Indeed, in the nearness of God's handiwork, family worship assumes a deeper, richer significance, going with you wherever your vacation takes you.

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